

Pamph.
Latin lang.
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LATIN PRONUNCIATION

REPORT OF COMMITTEE

APPOINTED BY THE

CLASSICAL ASSOCIATION

OF ONTARIO.

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LATIN PRONUNCIATION.

Your Committee, appointed to consider the subject of Latin Pronunciation, beg leave to report as follows :—

As the reports of the High School Inspectors sufficiently prove, there is at present in Ontario no uniform system of Latin Pronunciation.

Owing largely to this defect, the oral reading of Latin is little attended to in many schools, while in others it is completely excluded.

It is hardly necessary to point out what an important instrument for teaching is thus neglected. If taught through the ear as well as through the eye, pupils learn much more quickly, and get a far more secure hold upon a language.

Not the least serious effect of the present disregard of oral teaching is the ignorance of quantity that prevails very generally, with the consequent inability to appreciate Latin metres.

In the hope of partially rectifying present evils, your Committee have decided upon a scheme of Latin Pronunciation which it is hoped will be adopted by the Association and classical teachers throughout the Province.

The scheme follows that known as the Roman method, and is based upon a report made in 1887 to the Cambridge Philological Society by a committee consisting of John Peile, J. F. Postgate and J. S. Reid. This report opens with the following announcement :—"Your committee have come to the conclusion that the classical pronunciation of Latin has been sufficiently ascertained for the purpose of drawing up a scheme which may reasonably be regarded as permanent."

Before being adopted the report was fully discussed at two meetings of the Philological Society, and was "put forth by the Society as an approximate statement of the pronunciation of Latin by the educated classes in the Augustan period."

Besides giving what is presumably the correct pronunciation of Latin, the scheme involves three main advantages :—(a), it is brief and simple ; (b), it presents a practically phonetic alphabet ; (c), it makes very clear the distinction in quantity between long and short vowels.

The Roman method is already used in some parts of Canada, and is commonly followed in the best schools and colleges in the United States.

The following books of reference are recommended :—

- Ellis, A. J.—Quantitative Pronunciation of
Latin.....Macmillan, 1874.
Seelmann.—Die Aussprache d e s
Lateins.....Henninger, Heilbronn, 1885.
Roby, H. J.—Latin GrammarMacmillan, 1887.
Cambridge Philological Society.—Pronunciation
of Latin.....Trübner, 1887.
(Price 3d.).

VOWELS.

<i>Letters.</i>	<i>Pronunciation.</i>
Latin A long in <i>cālo, mǎnāre</i> . short in <i>cālor, mǎněo</i> .	as Eng. <i>a</i> in psalm, salve. the same sound shortened. Both <i>ā</i> & <i>ǎ</i> are found in <i>āhā</i> ! N.B. <i>ā</i> in Latin was never pronounced as in mate, nor <i>ǎ</i> as in man, mat.
E long as in <i>nēdum</i> , <i>sēcēdo, diē</i> . short as in <i>nēfas</i> , <i>sēco, arcē</i> .	as Eng. <i>e</i> in grey and skein. as Eng. <i>e</i> in sped and met. N.B. Lat. <i>ē</i> was never pro- nounced as Eng. <i>ee</i> in <i>see</i> .
I long in <i>sī, sīn, rīdēo</i> . short in <i>sīne, sītīs</i> , <i>rīgīdus</i> .	as <i>i</i> in machine, <i>ee</i> in <i>feel</i> . N.B. The Latin <i>i</i> was never the <i>i</i> in fine. as <i>i</i> in fit, pin.
O long as in <i>cōmīs</i> , <i>ōmēn</i> . short as in <i>cōmēs</i> , <i>ōpūs</i> .	as <i>o</i> in bone, lone. nearest representative Eng. <i>o</i> in not, rock.
U long as in <i>ūnā, ūmōr</i> . short as in <i>ūtēr</i> , <i>hūmīs</i> .	as <i>u</i> in ruin, rude. N.B. Lat. <i>ū</i> was never pro- nounced like <i>u</i> in acute, mule, which is yoo. as <i>u</i> in full, <i>oo</i> in foot. N.B. Lat. <i>ŭ</i> never as Eng. <i>ŭ</i> in but, cut.

Y long as in *gŷrās*, as I long.
Hŷdra.

short as in *cŷmbā*, as y in beauty, lady.
lŷrā.

DIPHTHONGS.

The pronunciation of the diphthongs is best learnt by first sounding each vowel separately and then running them together.
ae as ah-eh, *au* as ah-oo, *oe* as o-eh, *ei* as eh-ee, *eu* as eh-oo and *ui* as oo-ee.

AE in <i>taedce</i>	nearly Eng. <i>a</i> in fare.
AU in <i>laudo</i>	Eng. <i>ou</i> in house.
OE in <i>foedus</i>	N.B. Avoid the pronunciation "feed us."
EI in <i>hei</i>	Eng. <i>ey</i> in grey, <i>ei</i> in skein.
EU in <i>seu, neuter</i>	} The general rule, as given above, a sufficient guide.
UI in <i>cui, huic</i>	

CONSONANTS.

C in <i>cāno, cecini, circā, condicio.</i>	always as Eng. <i>k</i> , never as <i>s</i> or as <i>c</i> before <i>e, i</i> .
Qu in <i>inquit.</i>	as Eng. <i>qu</i> in quick.
G in <i>gaudeo, genus, gŷgās, agē.</i>	always as Eng. <i>g</i> in got, get, begin, never as <i>j</i> or <i>g</i> soft.
N before c (<i>k, qu</i>), <i>g</i> , as <i>incipit, inquam, conggero.</i>	as <i>ng</i> in sing, thus ingkipit, ingquam, conggero.
R in <i>ringi, rārus, datōr.</i>	trilled <i>r</i> as in French or Scotch.
S as in <i>sūs, accūso, tristes.</i>	always voiceless, as in hiss, hist; never voiced as in has (haz).
J or I consonant as in <i>iūgum, iācio.</i>	as Eng. <i>y</i> : <i>yugum, yakio.</i>

V or U consonant as in <i>uānus, uīs, seruo.</i>	as Eng. <i>w</i> : <i>wāhnus, wees, seruo.</i>
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N.B. There is no ancient authority for spelling *i* consonant as *j* or *u* consonant as *v*. The Romans used one symbol for both vowel and consonant.

B, D, F, H, L, M, N, P, T	as in Eng. N.B. <i>t</i> is always the same : Editio is not to be pronounced edishio.
X as in <i>saxum, exulto.</i>	as Eng. <i>ks</i> (<i>x</i>) ; <i>eksulto</i> , not <i>eggsulto</i> .

Z as in *gaza*, *Zephyrus*.

Probably as *dz* in *adze*.

Double consonants should be carefully separated in pronunciation, as *ag-ger*, *pos-sum*, *pen-na*.

QUANTITY.

Observance of the quantity is of vital importance for the proper appreciation of metre in Latin poetry and of rhythm in prose. The difference in duration between short and long vowels should be carefully observed. Distinguish (*e.g.*) *bōnum* and *dōnum*, *miles* and *fides*, *cūpidus* and *dūrus*. Observe the quantity in *sic*, *nōn*, *sīnē*, *dīē*, etc.

Each vowel has a quantity of its own, and as far as possible the natural length of a vowel should be distinguished from the conventional "lengthening" which it undergoes before two consonants. The *i* of *scribo* is still *i* in *scriptus*, as the *e* of *sēco* is still short (by nature) in *sēctus*. But in *sectus* the weight of the double consonant allows the syllable to be treated in verse, as if it were naturally long.

From ancient authorities we learn that vowels were regarded as long in themselves, when preceding *ns*, *nf*, *gn*, *ct* (when representing *gt*, as in *lēctus* from *lēgo*), and at least sometimes before *nc*, *nq*, and *r* followed by a consonant. Thus *cōnstāns*, *infēnsus*, *rēgnum*, *signum*, *quīnque*, *sānctus*, *ōrdo*, *ōrno*.

NOTE.—Communications should be addressed to H. R. Fairclough, M.A., Secretary of the Classical Association, University College, Toronto.

